



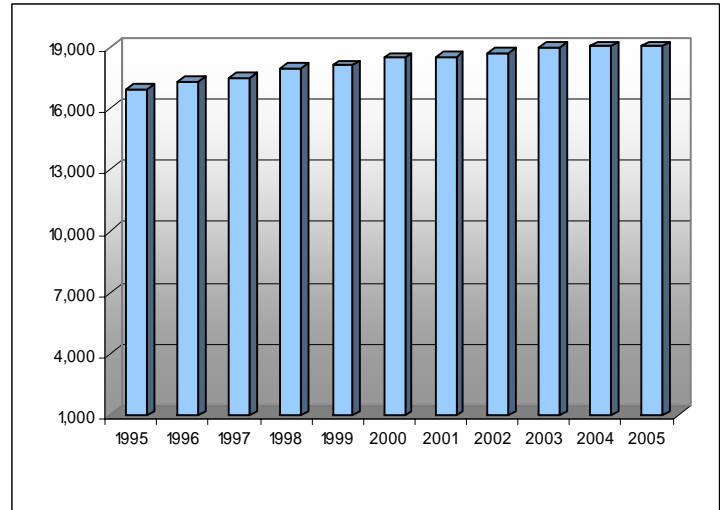
JEROME COUNTY PROFILE

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June 2006

Population

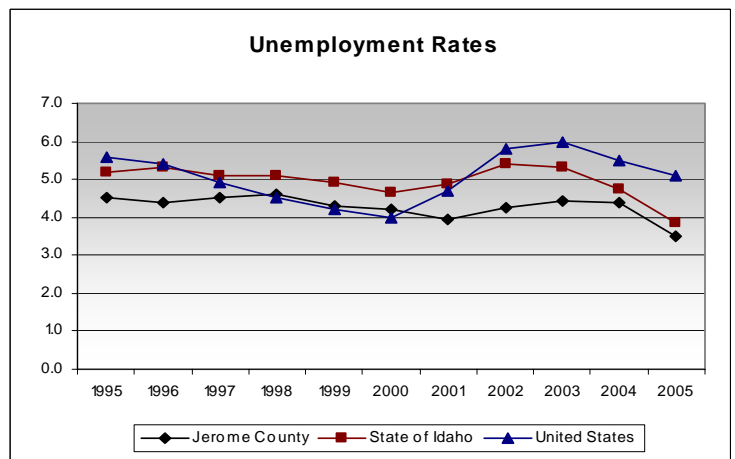
Jerome County has shown steady population growth over the last ten years. The population has risen from 16,911 in 1995 to 19,638 in 2005, an increase of 16 percent. Much of the growth in population has been due to outstanding economic development that has taken place in Jerome County in the last decade. The dairy industry has increased dramatically and the resulting businesses like Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods, Inc., WOW Logistics, and Wal-Mart have made Jerome County an attractive place to work, and the population has increased accordingly. As dairy growth levels off, it is expected that the population will grow at a slower rate in the near future.



Labor Force & Employment

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Jerome County has improved dramatically over the past few years. It has dropped from a high of 4.6 percent in 1998 to a low 3.5 percent in 2005. The reason for the positive trend has been excellent economic diversification and well-devised economic development. The growth in the dairy industry and the resulting businesses that have sprung from that sector have provided a very stable employment picture. Many migrant seasonal farm workers have dropped out of the migrant stream to become permanent residents working in the dairies and the cheese-processing sector. The growth in dairies and cheese processing, as well as some light manufacturing, has stimulated retail trade as well.

In 2000, Wal-Mart opened a large “supercenter” store, employing over 400 people. Many small retailers have done well and there have been numerous jobs created in the *Retail* and *Services* sectors. While dairy growth is slowing, it is

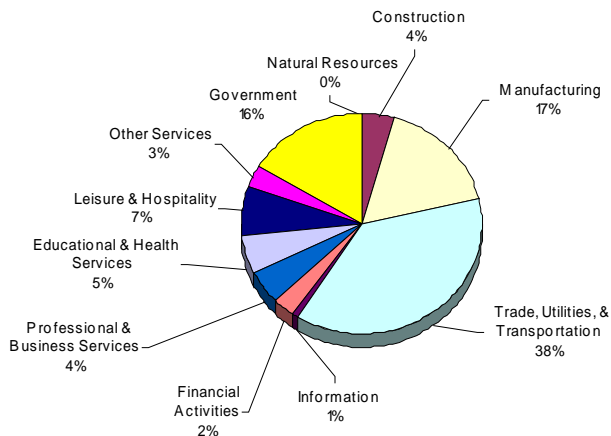


expected that Jerome County will continue to have a very low unemployment rate and will continue to remain significantly under the national and state averages. The economic outlook continues to be optimistic with the recent opening of WOW Logistics and the expansion of West Farm Foods. These new businesses and expansion of existing businesses are expected to create over 100 new jobs, and a new AT&T Point of Presence Technology corridor near Jerome is expected to attract technology businesses to the area and keep the Jerome County economy vibrant for years to come.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	10,329	10,696
Total Employment	9,910	10,334
Unemployed	419	362
Jerome County % Unemployed	4.1	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	8,812	8,962	8,702	9,003	8,954	9,234	9,363	9,458	9,623	9,741	10,124
Unemployment	398	390	393	411	382	390	370	401	427	428	355
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.4	3.5
Employment	8,414	8,572	8,309	8,592	8,572	8,844	8,993	9,057	9,197	9,314	9,769

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Wages & Income

Jerome County has shown strong growth in per capita income over the last decade. The per capita income has gone from \$18,380 in 1995 to \$27,538 in 2004. This is an increase of 50 percent, which is outstanding. The per capita income of \$27,538 ranks Jerome County at sixth in the state out of the 44 counties. Jerome County's per capita income is just slightly over the state average, as it has experienced huge growth in the last decade. The growth in the dairy industry and the new businesses that have located in the area make the future of the Jerome County economy very bright.

Major Employers

Jerome Cheese
Aardema Dairy
City of Jerome
County of Jerome
Rite Stuff Foods
St. Benedict's Medical Center
Progressive Logistics
Wal-Mart
Jerome School District
Spears Manufacturing
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.

Occupational Wages* Average Wage

Teachers	\$14.82
Teachers Aides	\$8.50
Registered Nurses	\$17.13
Receptionists	\$8.38
Medical Secretaries	\$9.15
Bookkeepers	\$9.04
Cashiers	\$6.07
Telemarketers	\$7.19
Janitorial	\$7.36
Landscapers	\$8.54
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.20
Cheese Processors	\$9.37
Construction Laborers	\$11.52
Milkers	\$9.90
Farm Laborers	\$6.34

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	4,929	\$17,972	7,346	\$23,752	7,283	\$24,908
Agriculture	991	\$17,140	1,546	\$22,351	1,566	\$23,621
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	170	\$17,446	317	\$21,895	260	\$23,575
Manufacturing	611	\$21,339	1,005	\$26,038	977	\$25,756
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	1,310	\$19,013	2,137	\$25,308	2,161	\$26,883
Information	51	\$15,348	44	\$28,594	50	\$29,601
Financial Activities	91	\$18,452	169	\$23,230	177	\$24,534
Professional and Business Services	176	\$21,252	267	\$24,656	257	\$23,690
Educational and Health Services	327	\$19,535	327	\$28,119	346	\$29,838
Leisure and Hospitality	281	\$7,069	447	\$9,400	409	\$10,507
Other Services	99	\$14,057	152	\$18,749	162	\$19,024
Government	822	\$17,911	933	\$26,441	920	\$27,670

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Jerome County	\$18,380	\$19,918	\$19,697	\$22,065	\$23,341	\$21,787	\$24,801	\$23,896	\$24,185	\$27,538
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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